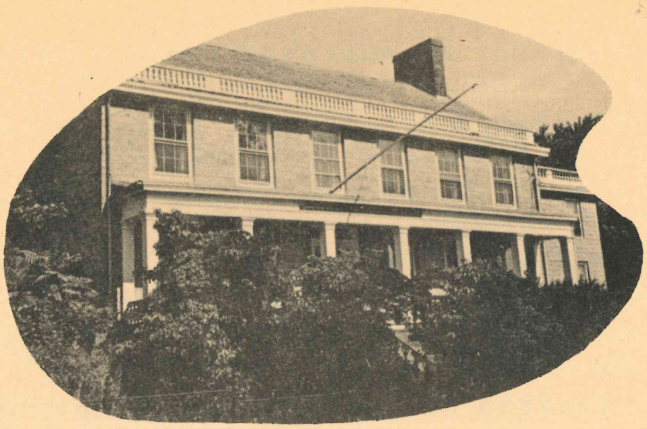
New London County Historical Society

11 Blinman Street SHAW MANSION New London, Conn.

MAR 20 '81

Quarterly  Bulletin

Merry Christmas to All

Vol. 25 December 1979 No.2

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We plan to start off the New Year, with your help, with a cocktail party at the Shaw Mansion, on Little Christmas, 6 January 1980. Come at four and at six-thirty we will politely usher out the door; bring your family or any of your friends you wish to, and see the Mansion in its holiday glory, and enjoy a drink and hors de'oeuvres. Have you ever noticed how the very walls here seem to radiate welcome and pleasure when something is going on within them? I am sure the house itself enjoys a party as much as any one of us. We will see you 6 January, barring blizzards.

BLACK HISTORY

A year ago we had the same heading, but that was to announce that a history of blacks was to be published by this Society. This year it is an established fact, and a new book "Tapestry, a living history of the Black Family in Southeastern Connecticut," by James M. Rose and Barbara Brown, has been born. We have had a few setbacks getting it out, but it has finally been delivered, and aside from being the first history of the blacks of the area, it is one of the first books to be published in New London after a hiatus of many years. This month was not really our choice for delivery of the books, for everyone is so busy at this particular time, so publicity will have to wait until the New Year, when we can launch it properly with all the fanfare it deserves. However, it is available here at the Mansion, if anyone wants a copy. It is a paperback, for at present prices, hard coveres would have forced us to set the price so high it might have been out of reach. Price is $4.95 with state tax of $.35, bringing it to $5.30. We are justly proud of the book and the authors must be more so.

ACCESSIONS

Ancestors & Descendants of John Dodge, by Marilyn M. & Phillip J. Slinger, 1976 - Gift of authors
The Wayward Yankees: Deviant behavior in Colonial Conn., by Mary K. Matossian - Gift of author
Army Engineers in New England, by Aubrey Parkman - Gift of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Norwalk - being an historical acc't of that town, by Deborah W. Ray & Gloria P. Stewart - Gift of Norwalk Historical Society
The Historic Norwalk Islands, by Dick Williams - Gift of Norwalk Historical Society
Norwalk, Conn, "Pictures from the Past", by Carl Lobozza - Gift of Norwalk Historical Society
Manuscript account books, 1832-1844, 1833-1852, kept by Joseph Harvey - Gift of Mrs. Daniel Durfee
46 photographs of construction of Lake Konomoc Dame - Gift of Gene Manning
Phoenix Guano from McKeans Island, imported by the Phoenix Guano Co., New London, Starr & Farnham, 1861 - Bought by Society
Browne-Schutt Ancestral Lines, 1979 - Gift of Walter Beardsley
Picturesque New London)
Acc't book, Nichols & Harris drugstore, 1858-70)
4 small books with recipes for various mixtures, household, cosmetic, etc., from Nichols & Harris)
New London's Tercentenary Celebration)
Beautiful New London, Maritime Gateway to Conn.)
Cedar Grove Cemetery, V.1, no.1)
7 glass negatives of New London views)
The Lovely Sisters, by Mrs. L.H. Sigourney)
Longfellow's Poems, v.1)
The School Reader, 1845)
The Christian's Treasure, 1825)
Treatise on Practical Mensuration, 1824)
Daboll's Complete Schoolmaster's Assistant, 1847)
New England Magazine, 1896 (article on New London)
Maritime Engineering (article on S.S. Minnesota, with plans), 1903)
Illustrated American (Article on New London) May 1896)
Framed tinted photograph, ca. 1860, of Douglass H. Harris)
Framed crayon portrait of Joanna Strickland Rogers, ca. 1870)
Framed drawing of Greek Revival Bldg from which Whale Oil Row houses were built, by Russell E. Burrows)
Framed diploma, 1862, from Young Ladies' High School)
Photograph of Nichols & Harris drugstore, men in front identified)
Pharmacist's licenses, 1882-96) All gift of Hiram D. Harris
Victorian loveseat, dressing table, wall clock, music cabinet, silver tea service - Bequest of Margaret Bliss
John Foster Williams" U.S. Revenue Cutter Massachusetts, by Florence Kern Gift of author
John Howell's U.S. Revenue Cutter Eagle, by Florence Kern - Gift of author
Richard Taylor's U.S. Revenue Cutter, Virginia, by Florence Kern - Gift of author
Wm. Cooke's U.S. Revenue Cutter, Diligence, by Florence Kern - Gift of author
James Montgomery's U.S. Revenue Cutter Gen. Green, by Florence Kern - Gift of author
Simon Gross' U.S. Revenue Cutter Active, by Florence Kern - Gift of author

Robert Cochran's U.S. Revenue Cutter South Carolina, by Florence Kern - Gift of author

Patrick Dennis' U.S. Revenue Cutter Vigilant, by Florence Kern - Gift of author

The Lanpheare Family - Research Aid, Shirley Bucknum, comp. - Gift of Carol Lanphear family

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NO END TO PETROLEUM! ! ! !

A 300 barrel well on Pit Hole: The succor rods were drawn from the Poal Well on the celebrated Holdom farm, Saturday morning, and the well has been flowing ever since at the rate of three thousand barrels per day. This late strike on Pit Hole equals anything ever struck in the oil regions. Thus Pit Hole yields more oil than the whole of the balance of the Oil Dorado. The excitement on that stream is now wilder than ever. «Titusville Herald»

From the Daily Star, Sept. 8, 1865. Famous last words!

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PLEASURE OF PAYING DEBTS

What a pleasure it is to pay one's debts! Sir T. Littleton made this observation. It seems to flow from a combination of circumstances, each of which is productive of pleasure. In the first place, it removes that uneasiness which a true spirit feels from dependence and obligation. It affords pleasure to the creditor, and thereby gratifies our most social affection: It promotes that future confidence which is so very interesting to an honest mind; It opens a prospect of being readily supplied with what we want on future occasions: it leaves a consciousness of our own virtue: And it is a measure which we know to be right, both in point of Justice and sound Policy. Finally, it is the main support of reputation.

From the Connecticut Gazette, Oct. 10, 1817. We feel this is pertinent at this time of year particularly.

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FOR YOUR HOLIDAY DINNER

To stuff and roast a turkey, of fowl

One pound soft wheat bread, 3 ounces beef suet, 3 eggs, a little sweet thyme, sweet marjoram, pepper and salt, and some add a gill of wine; fill the bird therewith and sew up, hang down to a steady solid fire, basting frequently with salt and water, and roast until a steam emits from the breast, put one third of a pound of butter into the gravy, dust flour over the bird and baste with the gravy; serve up with boiled onions and cranberry-sauce, mangoes, pickles or celery.

A trifle

Fill a dish with biscuit finely broken, rusk and spiced cake, wet with wine,

then pour a good boil'd custard (not too thick) over the rusk, and put a syllabub over that; garnish with jelley and flowers.

from American Cookery, by Amelia Simmons, 1796.

Burnt wine

Put a quart of good Burgundy in an open pan, with one pound of sugar, two leaves of mace, a little longpepper, a dozen of cloves, two or three tops of rosemary branches, and two bay-leaves. Place that in the middle of a wheel-fire of blasting charcoal. When the wine begins to be hot, set the fire to it with a bit of paper, and thus let it kindle and blaze till it goes out of itself. This wine is drank quite hot, and it is an admirable drink, especiallay when the weather is very cold.

from Valuable Secrets, 1795.

A good plain family pudding

One pound of flour, or flour and bread-crumbs mixed, half a pound of suet, half a pound of plums, half a pound of currants, quarter of a pound of brown sugar, a little salt and spice, a teacup of milk. Mix as stiff as possible, and boil six to eight hours.

from Godey"s Lady's Book and Magazine, 1872.

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Don't forget to send us a change of address. It costs us money every time we have the Bulletin returned, for the Post Office doesn't forward it.

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Resident Curator - Mrs. Adam L. Knox Tel. no. 443-1209

FROM:

The New London County Historical
Society - Shaw Mansion
11 Blinman Street
New London, CT. 06320

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